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thereafter enabling the first spin/stop button for a second time; and  
thereafter depressing the enabled first spin/stop button for the second time to  
cause at least some of the other display segments to stop spinning.

16. The method of claim 14, including the additional step of placing a wager  
prior to the spin/stop button being enabled for the second time.

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### REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, the claims of Group I have been  
elected without traverse. The claims of Group II, claims 10-12, have been canceled. In  
order to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 8 and 9 have been canceled  
and new claims 13-16 are presented. Claim 3 has been amended. Reconsideration  
and allowance of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

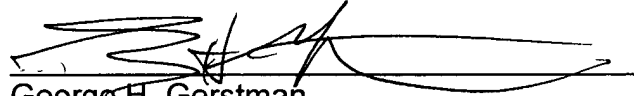
The present invention concerns a novel method of playing a game. To this end,  
a payline display is provided having a plurality of display segments bearing a  
predetermined number of indicia. A spin/stop button is provided. The spin/stop button  
is enabled for a first time. The enabled spin/stop button is depressed to cause at least  
some of the plurality of display segments to spin. In this manner, one or more, but not  
all, of the plurality of display segments stop spinning after the enabled spin/stop button  
is depressed for the first time. Thereafter, the spin/stop button is enabled for a second  
time. Thereafter, the enabled spin/stop button is depressed for the second time to  
cause some of the display segments to stop spinning.

All of applicant's claims now bring out these aforementioned steps which are not  
disclosed in the prior art. The patent to Lowden discloses a casino table game having a  
dealer position and a number of player positions and having spin buttons for spinning

the reels. As recognized by the Examiner, Lowden does not disclose using a stop button as claimed. Takemoto et al. is a single player slot machine having a start lever and a number of stop buttons which are for stopping the reels. Takemoto et al. discloses that once a stop button is pressed, the corresponding reel will stop . However, Takemoto et al.'s stop button will not be "enabled" for a second time, as set forth in applicant's claims. To stop one of the other reels in Takemoto et al., a different stop button must be pressed. This is not only different from what is set forth in applicant's claims, but in addition a combination of Lowden and Takemoto et al. will not result in the claimed invention. Even if for some reason they were combined, each player at Lowden's casino table would have a separate game stop switch for controlling each separate reel. Thus the combination of Lowden and Takemoto et al. would be contrary to Lowden's teachings because, in Lowden, the player is provided with a spin button, not with a stop button, and it would make no sense to stop of each of Lowden's reels separately as taught by Takemoto et al.

Applicant's claims are set forth in a manner that clearly distinguishes applicant's invention over the prior art references, whether taken singly or in combination with each other. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Our check in the amount of \$168 is enclosed for the additional claims fee. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment incident to the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 19-1351.

Respectfully submitted,  
SEYFARTH SHAW



George H. Gerstman  
Registration No. 22,419  
Attorney for Applicants

SEYFARTH SHAW  
55 East Monroe Street, Suite 4200  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 269-8567

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 22, 2003.



Registered Attorney for Applicant  
Date: January 22, 2003

Baerlocher et al.

Serial No. 09/886,751

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For: Slot Table Game Apparatus and Method for Playing Slot Table Game

**CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM**

AI 3. (Amended) The method of claim 13 including the additional step of placing a wager prior to the first spin/stop button being enabled for the second time.